

Focus Group / Key-Informant Topic Template

Focus Group / Key Informant: Health Centre Personnel

Topic	Sub-topic	Questions
Health and hygiene	Diseases	What diseases are present? Are there seasonal outbreaks of disease? (Such as malaria during the rainy season?)
		What are the vectors of disease? What are the modes of transmission? (main vectors: mosquitoes and faecal-oral transmission of parasites)
		What methods are possible for the prevention of disease?
	Attitudes and behaviour	Are there current methods or traditional practices for relief of symptoms or a "cure" for disease?
		Do people currently wash their hands after defecating or before preparing food? How is this done? Is it truly sanitary?
		Are the current defecation practices a threat to health? If so, how?
		What health related behaviours are contributing to the public health risks faced by the community?
		What are the current practices on the key hygiene behaviours like a. Washing hands after defecation; b. Method of disposal of children's faeces; c. Practices for storage and handling of water; d. Practices of storage and handling of food.
	Common practices	How community dispose their solid waste?
		What are the breast feeding practices?
		Is there an understanding of the relationship between water/sanitation/shelter /vectors and disease?
		Does the community have access to lidded water containers/ cooking utensils / mosquito nets / soap / sanitary protection / blankets / bathing facilities?
		Are they linked with water and sanitation and /or health services?
		Are the users involved in the management and maintenance of water sources and latrines?
	Health and hygiene promotion	Are there currently any health and/or hygiene promotion activities going on? Are you engaged in any health and/or hygiene sensitisation programmes? Who is generally responsible for designing and implementing health and hygiene sensitisation measures?
		What health promotion media are available / accessible to the affected population? (Radio, posters / leaflets, local folk media and other)
	Health services	Are there local health workers? If so, what are their roles / limitations?
Are the health services provided to the community sufficient or is there any improvement needed?		

Topic	Sub-topic	Questions
Wastewater disposal and latrines	Current design / usage	What traditional, cultural or religious norms can you observe in your work that effect how women and men use water, dispose of waste and observe hygiene and health?
		In your experience, which factors most effect peoples hygiene practices and hence their health? How are hygiene practices determined by people's access to water and sanitation services and the respective available infrastructure?
		In your experience as a health professional can you detect differences in awareness and knowledge of water, sanitation and health related issues between women and men and different age groups?
	Problems / solutions	From your perspective as a health professional, do women and men and different age groups have different needs in terms of water and sanitation provision and infrastructure? Do they have different needs in terms of hygiene and health? Which needs you think are currently NOT met?
		In your experience, what major decisions of households on water, sanitation, hygiene and health are made by whom in the household? How does this affect the health status of the family?
		In relation to water related diseases, water pollution through solid and liquid waste, what is the level of awareness in your community? Can you provide some concrete examples of awareness or lack of it?
		In your professional practice have you heard that patients link liquid and solid waste disposal services to their diseases? <i>(Gender!)</i> What is your assessment of these in your local community and how do they influence the health status of the community?
	Proposed modifications to the current latrine design / usage	In your experiences are women and men aware of environmental and hygiene conditions in their household / their environment and link these to their personal health? If so, could you please provide some examples?
		What is the prevalence and type of water related diseases in the community and their seasonality?
		According to your clinical practice, what common practices in your community result in water related diseases? Assessing the water and sanitation infrastructure and services in public facilities in your community, where are major gaps that lead to water related diseases? What solutions would you propose?
		How would you assess the status of the current public water and sanitation system in your community? Are there deficits and if so, how do they affect the health of your community?
		Are there additional services that the community needs but that are at present not provided?
Drainage	How would you assess the quality of health services especially for underprivileged (poor) households? In your experience, what are the main services that underprivileged (poor) households lack (or have less access to)?	

Topic	Sub-topic	Questions
	Drainage (cont.)	Which neighbourhoods in your community are most in need of infra-structural development in water and sanitation and why? <i>(Specify for water and sanitation!)</i>
		Do you have under-privileged households in your community (poor)? What makes them under-privileged (poor)? Can you give an estimate in percentage of how many households of the entire service-area are under-privileged (poor)?
		In your experience, in times of water shortage, water pollution through liquid or solid waste, how did community groups and families cope? Please give some examples of these coping strategies!
		Are you aware of differences in frequency, quality or quantity in provision of public water to different social groups or areas in your community?

Environmental issues and population	Type of area	Area (planned / unplanned)?
	Area characteristics	Is the area subject to regular or seasonal flooding?
		How are the soil conditions?
		How does the land slope and what are the drainage patterns?
		What is the depth and permeability of the soil, and can it be dug easily by hand
		What is the level of the groundwater table?
	When does the seasonal rainfall occur?	
Population	What is the estimated population and how are people distributed across the area?	

Water sources	Current water sources	Where do you currently get your water from? What are the water sources?
	Water quality	Is the water free of contaminants such as micro-organisms and/or poisons or harmful minerals? Is the water source contaminated or at risk of contamination? If so, what is the contaminate?
		Is treatment required? Is treatment possible? What type of treatment is necessary?
		Does wastewater disposal affect your water supply?
	Available quantity	How much water is available per person per day, and do all people (groups) have equitable access to it?
		How much water available at the sources. Is it enough for short term and long term needs?
		Is the current water supply reliable? What may affect this (Seasonality)? How long will it last?
Water disinfection	Is disinfection necessary, even if supply is not contaminated? Is water contaminated while storage and transportation? If so, why?	
Hygiene issues	What are the key hygiene issues related to water supply?	

Topic	Sub-topic	Questions	
Farming / gardening practices	Farming & gardening	Do people in this area farm the land or keep gardens?	
		How are the gardens and farms currently irrigated?	
		What types of plants are propagated?	
		When does planting take place?	
		When does the harvest take place?	
	Animal husbandry	Are people in this area keeping farming animals (cattle, pigs, sheep or goats)?	
		How are they keeping them? (e.g. in a barn, free range)	
		How are they feeding their animals?	
		What do they do with the manure?	
Solid waste	Waste generation	What types of wastes are currently generated?	
	Current solid waste management	Is solid waste a problem?	
		How do people dispose of their waste?	
		What type and quantity of solid waste is produced?	
		Can solid waste be disposed of on site, or does it need to be collected and disposed of off site?	
		Who is responsible within the household to dispose of solid waste	
		What do people currently do with wastes? Is there a segregated communal area? (Is it enclosed? Do all wastes get disposed there? Does an attendant manage the area? Is there fencing around the area? Is there currently any control method for vectors? Is the waste "land filled"? Is it incinerated or burned? Is the area maintained a safe distance down-slope from wells and other water sources?)	
		Do individual households manage waste? Does all waste get disposed at the household? Is there fencing around the area? Is there currently any control method for vectors? Is the waste "land filled"? Are "burn barrels" used? Is the area maintained a safe distance down-slope from wells and other water sources?)	
		Do all households compost? What is composted? How is it managed? (E.g. Is it managed communally or individually? Are there effective measures to reduce vectors?)	
		Proposed modifications to the current solid waste management	Can the waste system be modified to control negative impacts?
			Can the waste system be modified to control negative impacts?
			Should any waste stream be managed differently? If there are changes that would be beneficial, what is the plan for improvement?
			Can some of this be recycled or reused?